

Garden Report Fall 2004

2004 Middlebury College Organic Garden Highlights

Harvest Festival was held on October 9, 2004. Over 100 students, faculty members, staff and community members attended. A meal prepared from the garden produce was served to the participants.

Seed Saving Project

Student summer workers at the garden participated in a seed saving project with the New England based Restoring Our Seed farmer-gardener partnership. The goal of the group is to develop open pollinated varieties of vegetables that are suitable for local micro-climates and have excellent taste and disease resistance. Using seed stock from FEDCO seeds and Cornell University, students Kayla Preece '07 and Susannah Patty '06 evaluated several heirloom tomato and cucumber varieties for disease resistance, taste and productivity. Students saved seeds from the best of these plants as well as from open pollinated green beans, lettuce and peas to be used in next year's garden.

Children's Garden

The students from the Weybridge Elementary School came to the garden once a week after school in Sept and early October. The Children's Garden spot was too small to feed the entire school, so snacks and meals from the garden were consumed by the students who participated in the after school program. Sophie Esser and Erin Jensen the originators of the program graduated in May '04 and had to leave the garden program for other pursuits in early September. Chris Howell '05, Stephanie Smith '08 and Claire Polfus '08 took over the after school program for the rest of the fall.

Vermiculture

Mary Appelhof (the internationally known "worm woman" gave two vermicomposting workshops at the garden on October 8. Small earthworm boxes were distributed to students who will feed and care for the worms over the winter. The large worm box will be kept out door at the garden over the winter.

Research

Amber Trotter '06 spent used a research grant to set up and evaluate several systems of companion planting (combining two plants types in the same area) to see if there were noticeable differences in productivity, taste, and disease resistance between the companion planted beds and the control groups.

Classes

During the summer language schools student from the French School participated in gardening activities two afternoons a week from 3:30 to 5:00. The Arabic School had their final meeting at the garden.

During the fall 2004 semester the Environmental Sciences, Geology, Geography, Biology, Dance, Teacher Education, French School at the Summer Language Program and English departments held classes at the garden.